

FMD situation update

TAFS Conference:

“Strengthening FMD control capacity and enhance resilience”

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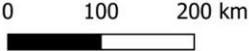
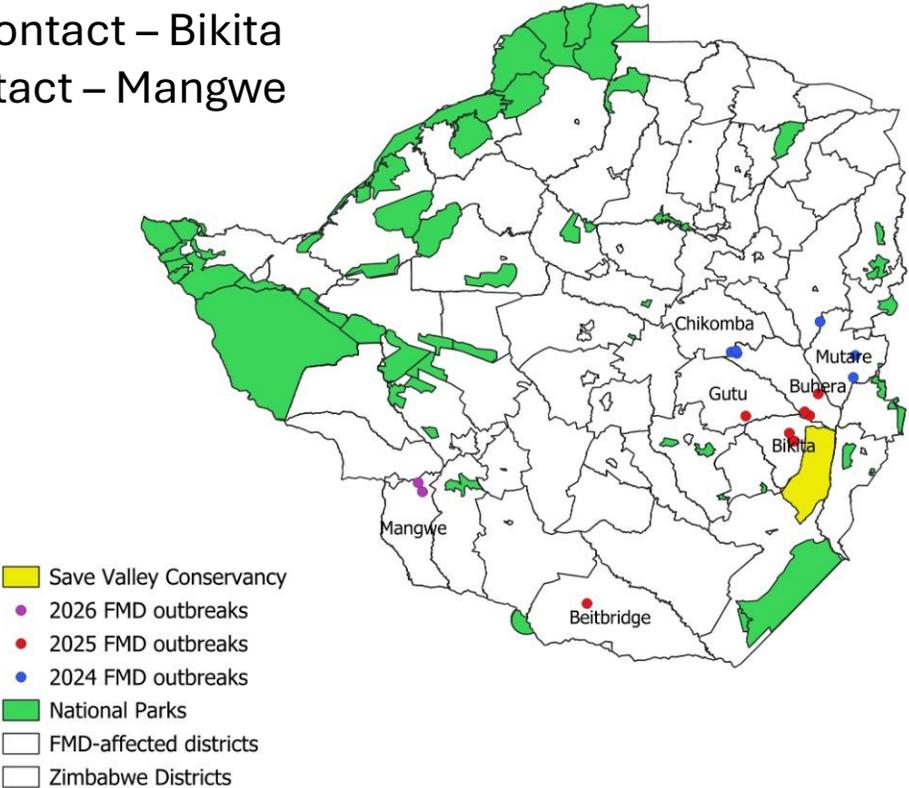
3rd and 4th of March 2026, Cape Town

ZIMBABWE FMD outbreaks 2024-2026

Zimbabwe FMD Cases 2024,2025 and 2026



14/04/2024 -26/09/2026- SAT2 -Buffalo contact – Mutare
07/04/2025-15/01/2026 –SAT2 Buffalo contact – Bikita
05/01/2026-Ongoing –SAT 1 Buffalo contact – Mangwe



Foot and Mouth update

The latest confirmed outbreak of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) was in Mangwe District, Matabeleland South Province, Maholi and Hannavale dip tanks, near the border with Botswana.

Investigations suggest that the source of the infection may have been buffaloes which were sighted in the communal areas two months before the outbreak.

Clinical signs consistent with FMD were observed in cattle of various age groups, with 54 cases reported out of a census of 2,403 cattle.



Foot and Mouth update

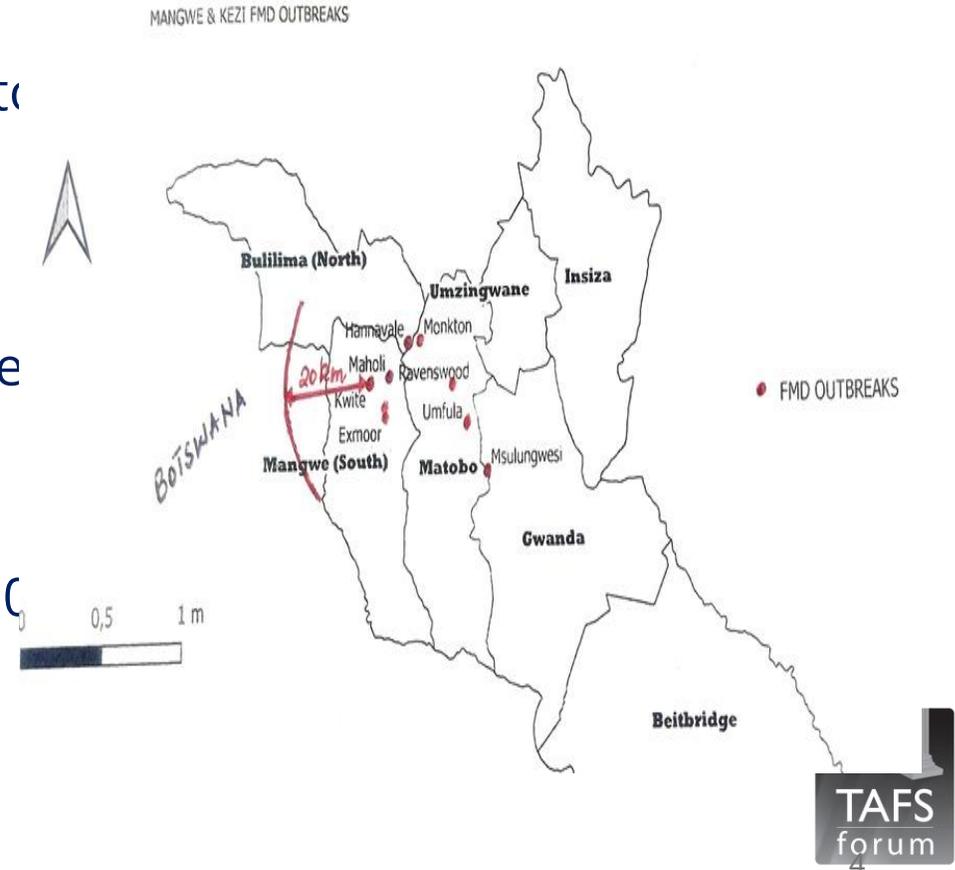
Laboratory results confirmed the presence of FMD SAT 1 serotype using solid-phase ELISA.

Further analysis is underway, with epithelial tissues sent to the OIE FMD reference laboratory in Botswana for typing and vaccine matching.

The DVS authorities have imposed strict quarantines, suspended cattle movements, and intensified surveillance in infected districts and surrounding areas to detect any new cases.

The Botswana Veterinary Institute has promised 1 200 000 doses of the FMD vaccine by the end of March 2026

Ring vaccinations will commence as soon as the vaccine arrives within a 20km radius of the infection foci



FMD Control – Challenges

1. Inadequate and Inconsistent Vaccine Supply

Vaccine shortages and inconsistent supplies have historically undermined regular vaccination campaigns. Sporadic cases are currently being reported in and around the infected district due to delays in vaccine delivery from BVI.

This makes it difficult to ensure adequate coverage of at-risk herds. When vaccines are scarce, animals in known high-risk areas go unprotected, allowing the virus to spread.

2. Budgetary constraints

Zimbabwe's veterinary services require a large budget to control Foot and Mouth disease through routine surveillance, enforcement of quarantine measures, vaccinations, and laboratory testing.

These gaps slow detection, reporting, and response to outbreaks. Chronic financial constraints cripple the ability to execute rapid responsiveness to outbreaks.

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FMD Control – Challenges

3. Livestock Movement Issues

Effective FMD control requires strict regulation of animal movement, but enforcement is often challenging because unscrupulous livestock dealers resort to illegal movements, thereby undermining quarantine measures.

Prolonged FMD quarantine periods result in farmers getting desperate and resorting to illegal movements, evading police and veterinary checkpoints. All illegal movements are destroyed on site without compensation if they are caught.

4. Erosion of Control Infrastructure:

Loss of boundary fences between wildlife areas and cattle grazing lands reduces the effectiveness of zonal control strategies. When physical boundaries fail, it becomes harder to separate infected from uninfected populations.

FMD Control – Challenges

5. Wildlife-Livestock –Human Interface.

Wildlife, especially buffalo, act as reservoirs of FMD and frequently transmit the virus to cattle in communal grazing and border areas. This complicates control because wildlife movements are difficult to regulate.

6. Stakeholder Compliance and Awareness.

Effective FMD control depends on cooperation from livestock owners, wildlife conservancies, transporters, and markets.

Gaps in awareness and inconsistent compliance with biosecurity measures weaken overall efforts.



Key priority areas in FMD control

1. Routine and Strategic Vaccination
2. Animal Movement Control and Quarantine
3. Active Surveillance and Early Detection
4. Wildlife-Livestock-Human Interface Management
5. Strengthened FMD Zoning and Traceability



Key priority areas in FMD control

6. Awareness, Training & Farmer Engagement

7. Capacity Building for Veterinary Service

8. Coordination with Regional Partners

9. FMD surveillance O serotype

